

Greetings from the Chair

The first half of this year has continued to be busy for the Club, with a good variety of well supported events, including, in particular, the very successful Fashion Show on the 4th April where our great thanks go to Rosemary Holley and her team for a very successful evening, and over £1,000 raised for the motor neurone charity, MND. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

Other notable events were the two wine tastings and the many and varied Speakers Lunches. Thanks again to those involved.

We have many reciprocal clubs around the country and around the world. These clubs are listed on the website and I encourage members to visit them and share their experiences with us. Earlier this year, my wife Teresa and I were invited to The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh, to share in the celebration of their 100-year anniversary. This Club holds closely to my heart, as my own father was a soldier in the Royal Scots and fought with the regiment as it advanced across the Rhine, towards the end of the second world war. We represented The Ipswich & Suffolk Club on the evening of Saturday 8th June and were greeted by retired Wing Commander Graeme Lyell, our host for the early part of the evening. We were "right royally" looked after the reception cocktail

party where we met with other members and guests. I presented the Wing Commander with a gift from our Club with copies of two of Sarah Doig's books on Ipswich and Suffolk. Sarah is a very successful local author and was a great presenter at not one, but two speakers' lunches recently. Following the drinks reception, we were treated to a pipe and drum pageant titled "Beating the Retreat" which, but for the typically Scottish drizzly rain, was a fantastic spectacle. A three-course formal dinner followed where we were hosted by Royal Scots Club Member



Brigadier Charles Ritchie on a table made up mainly of other Club Chairmen and Presidents from around the world. All in all, a wonderful evening concluded by an address by Colonel Clinton Hicks, Chairman of the Royal Scots Club, thanking all for attending.



Beating the Retreat at Centenary Celebrations at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh.



Club Chairman George McLellan presenting Wing Commander Graeme Lyell with gifts from Ipswich & Suffolk Club.

As usual, Robert has diligently put together a Social Calendar of excellent events for the next six months or so. Please remember to be quick off the mark to secure your places, as many events do get booked up very quickly.

I am enjoying my time in the Chair, and it has been a privilege to have occupied the 'hot seat'. I remain extremely grateful to my fellow directors, to our General Manager and his excellent team, and to the many members who have been so kind and supportive. We are particularly grateful to those who give up so much of their time to ensure we have a vibrant and successful Club. My fellow directors and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Sarah Swallow to the Board and to wish her good luck. We are looking forward to working with her. Sarah's monthly, "ladies' lunches" have brought a new impetus to the dining room.

My responsibilities as Chairman are entering their final few months and Mr Keith Ferguson will be adding the responsibilities of Captain of the Ship to his existing brief of Finance Director. Keith's knowledge and experience have guided the financial stability of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club for many years. I wish him the best of luck.

George McLellan
Chairman

From the General Manager's office



Still pushing hard...

Another six months have come and gone so fast while working on functions and planning for the future. After a feasibility study of our lunch trade we have decided that times and tastes have changed, so we need to also change. The team are currently working on developing a new lunch menu format that will deliver what is expected in 2020 and beyond.

When we are ready, the new menu concept will be trialled and evaluated

to go with major works in the old Pine Room and Snug which will hopefully be transformed into our "New Bistro" next year. We will remove the old large tables and chairs replaced with more modern and comfortable furnishings and complete bright decor change. More detail may come with your next Newsletter as this will be an important offering to you all.

In general, functions are generating a steady income with increased pressures on the Dining Room during the week to a point that we need to offer you our New Bistro.

Other business lettings are good with 100% occupancy and general Venue hire is still strong considering the current economic climate.

I am looking forward to our next Social Calendar that has been given breath of fresh air by our new Director Sarah Swallow with some exciting ideas.

Robert Coppin
Club General Manager

A note from the President



Another six months have simply flown by since the last newsletter. We have had yet more excellent speakers for our lunches on Thursdays, many of which have been sold out long before the day.

The topics are so diverse that there is always something that appeals. These lunches are also a great way for members to get to know each other.

I am sure that the autumn/winter sessions will be just as popular. Can I just remind members that if they know that they are unable to attend to let Robert know in advance as there is usually a waiting list. The evening functions are equally as popular. Many members are also taking advantage of the theatre/concert bookings made by Robert. These are preceded by supper at the Club, prepared by Denis and Richard. It is then just a short stroll to either the Regent Theatre or the Corn Exchange.

A big thank you too to Jane and her team for their tireless work bringing food to our tables and dealing with all our other little troubles that arise on a regular basis!

The outside terrace is proving very popular indeed in the fine weather. We may need to add some more furniture as it is such a nice place to either eat, drink or just chat.

Along with members I look forward to the very full and varied programme for autumn and winter.

Pauline Young
President

Scrabble

It is with great pleasure that I can report that the Scrabblers of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club have had lots of fun and laughter again this year. Thanks to you all.

We meet nine times a year on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm - the months of January, July and August we do not play.

Our evening starts with a meal and is then followed by three games of scrabble. So why not come along for a taster session?

A great social evening and you do not need to be a wizard with words or



letters. I say to everyone that you are playing against yourself and not the opposition as the scores are accumulative over the evening.

Sarah Swallow
Captain of Scrabble

Bridge Matters

Lesley Norton is pictured being presented with the Steve Croucher Trophy by Maurice Barnes.

She was the 2018 winner but the photo came through just too late to be included in the previous newsletter!

We play Duplicate in the elegant Adam Room on Tuesday mornings, starting at 9.30am and averaging six or seven tables.

We greatly miss Daphne Hood, a much loved founder member who is no longer with us but are pleased to have recently welcomed Sally Patient and Heather Haines to our group.

Maurice Barnes
Bridge Captain



New Members

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club warmly welcome the following new members:-

Mr John Simpson
Mr Wylie White
Mrs Wendy Shotton
Mr & Mrs Michael & Urquiza Wearn
Mrs Gail Morgans

Snooker & Billiards News

The 2018/19 Snooker & Billiards Competitions have now been completed and many thanks go to Tony Harmer for his organisation. Finals night went very smoothly and thanks go to David Parkinson, John Marjason, Michael Devitt and George McLellan for their efforts in refereeing the matches and keeping everyone under control.

Winners of the various competitions were:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Claude West Snooker | Maurice Barnes |
| Norman Baynes Billiards | George Ridgway |
| Snooker Handicap | Nick Hampton |
| Snooker Open | Nick Hampton |

Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losing finalists. The Finals this year were very closely contested and it was good to see non playing members at Finals night as this added to the atmosphere.



Chairman thanking Master of Ceremonies, Michael Devitt for a wonderful Finals evening.

Thanks are also extended to the Chairman for his attendance and presenting the trophies to the winners.

Earlier in the year the Spring Taylor Tankards Competition was won by David Lawrence and Robin Watson.

The experiment of introducing a daytime competition playing in the morning and having lunch afterwards was successful and will be continued when the competition season starts again. These competitions will be held on the second Monday of each month.

Following the summer break the autumn season of Thursday night Club matches will start in September. All these matches are played on a



Presentation of Norman Baynes Trophy to George Ridgway - (Billiards Champion).



Presentation of Claude West Trophy to Maurice Barnes.

friendly basis and from my experience they are very enjoyable. We do like to include as many Club members in these matches so please let me know should you wish to play.



Presentation of Snooker Open Trophy to Nick Hampton.



Presentation of Snooker Handicap Trophy to Nick Hampton.

Ability levels are definitely not the criteria for selection rather the ability to have a very social and entertaining evening!



Golf News

Our match this year against the Colchester Garrison unfortunately was not played as Colchester could not find a full team this year.

We will however still have a match against the Cronies (a Purdis based group of golfers) later in the year, a date has yet to be fixed.

The Northgate Golf Knockout Trophy is now well under way.

We are now looking forward to our golf day at Purdis on Wednesday 18th September where we will compete for third playing of the Andrew Booth Memorial Trophy, followed by a meal and prize giving at our Club.

To enter please put your name down on the sporting notice board or email me at a@allangosling.com. All must register to participate, we are also allowing one guest per member so bring a golfing friend out to join us.

Yours In Golf
Allan Gosling

Don't miss the
Ipswich & Suffolk Club
**Andrew Booth
Memorial**



**Annual
Golf Day**

**Wednesday
18th September**

Mahjong Group

The Mahjong Group is about to celebrate its first year of playing and we have a small but regular group of fully-fledged players who meet twice a month on Monday mornings, a wake-up session to start the week!

John and I are delighted with the way in which our group has taken to the game and the strategies that are now being employed to stop someone 'Going Mahjong' especially if they are East Wind!

If you feel intrigued and would like to learn more, please come along to a session and give it a try as we are ready to accept beginners and teach you this fascinating game.

We have had numerous competitions throughout the year: a Christmas Special; a celebration of Chinese New Year followed by lunch; an Easter Event; and we are now playing our Summer Sizzler to see who scores the most tallies over four sessions.

Needless to say all these involve a winner and a Mahjong-themed prize!

If you have been wondering what this game is all about, why not come along and find out?

Mo Plunkett

Special Recognition



The Club recognises members Paul & Caroline Taylor who have hosted our Club Quiz Nights for many years which the Club is extremely grateful and central to the success of the evenings.

A rough count to date is 28 Quiz Nights hosted with only one night they could not attend.

The Club congratulates and thanks you both and may you continue for many years to come please?

Chess

We are about to complete our second year playing Chess with a small but committed group of people.

We have one new member and would like to welcome more new members to our group.

If you have played before or would like to learn you would be very welcome to come for a 'taster' session.

We meet in the club once a month at 6.30 pm on a Monday evening.

Liz Molander
Captain of Chess

From the Fabric Committee

As usual we are always working on maintaining and making improvements to the Club which is why visitors will have noticed that the Northgate Street elevation is being repainted. These works should be finished by the end of August.

Due to the increased popularity of lunchtime functions you may also have become aware this means the main dining room is more frequently fully booked. Because of this we have decided to upgrade the Pine Room and snug to bring them up to date.

Both rooms will be transformed with new decor, lighting, tables with cloths and upholstered chairs. The Pine Room ceiling will also be lowered. Sound absorbent measures to reduce the noise from the kitchen will see a glass screen being placed between the kitchen and eating area. If all goes to plan this refurbishment work will take place during April 2020. Denis and his team are also designing new and exciting menus which will be launched to coincide with the opening of these two new look lunch venues.

Looking even further ahead, we are also thinking of extending the bar behind the Reading Room which would see new external doors opening out onto the extended terrace.

This work however is entirely subject to consent being obtained from listings officer at the council and if we do obtain the go ahead, this will happen August next year.

Richard Hawkins
Director of Fabric

From the Wine Committee

Your wine committee have hosted two further tastings since our last report - our Spring wines tasting in April and our Summer wines tasting in July.

We think both went down well with those members and guests that attended because, as usual, the volume gradually increased as the evenings progressed. If you enjoyed any wines in particular, please let us know.

Your new Social Calendar includes three wine events – a sponsored New World vs Old World tasting in November hosted by Nethergate, round 2 of our Annual Wine Committee Challenge in January and a welcome return of our Call My Bluff Wine Tasting in March. Please do book early to avoid disappointment.

Some of you will have noticed some subtle changes to our wine offerings over the past year. We have been making incremental changes to our wine list and have introduced a 'Wine of the Month', one of which, the Cabaletta Rosso, is now on the main list. We've recently introduced a new Beaujolais Village which, if allowed to breathe and if poured carefully, is a good medium bodied red. Do give them both a try.

Finally, a request to all wine drinkers. Are there any wines that you drink at home or elsewhere and would like to see on the Club list? Conversely, are there any on the list that you avoid? Feedback from Members is always welcome and will help to hone our offering. Please do get in touch, our aim is to please!

Happy Quaffing!

Stephen Britt
Wine Committee

This was the starter at our April wine tasting event, which was beautifully produced and presented by our fantastic chefs and front of house staff.



Keep it up, we all appreciate your efforts.

George McLellan